

Brevier leaded.

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Wesley, R. I. Sept. 30, 1841.

Bro. Garrison:

As there appears no prospect of the ^{body of the} Society of Friends, with which I have been connected, becoming informed of ~~their~~ ^{my} disownment, ^{of them} by the most appropriate method, through their meetings of discipline, I ^{wish to} avail myself of the columns of the Liberator, as the medium of communication. ~~The~~ ^{Below} The letter, as its date indicates, was sent to the Society early last Spring; but, instead of being read in the meeting for discipline, was referred to a committee for examination. The committee reported against its being read, and ~~I~~ ^{I have} ~~can~~ ^{recently} learned that many of the Society are yet unapprised of the fact of their disownment. ~~I wish to give~~ ^{this information through the Liberator} (No. II)

Why this care to keep ~~the~~ momentous subjects so quiet, when there are those who sit on the upmost seats, who say, "The Slaveholders have as much right to their slaves as we have to our horses and cattle?" All the objections, ^{indeed,} urged against abolition from other quarters, are urged by members of ^{Friends'} Society; hence their care to "keep in the quiet." They are, as a body, pro-slavery at heart. ~~among them~~ Many true abolitionists are anxiously enquiring, whether they can any longer remain in their present position, and be quiet. ~~etc.~~ ^{from Friends,} The recent withdrawal of our esteemed friend Dr. Pely Clark, of Coventry, President of the Rhode Island Society, ^{A. P.} has done much to incite investigation. This one act of his will, in

principles on the question of slavery; for although, by our discipline, we refused to recognize a slaveholder as a Christian, yet, when a few of the people of this and other countries were awakened by the cry of the perishing poor to make an effort on his behalf, if so be they might, through the help of the God of the oppressed, restore to him his plundered rights, or, failing to do this, wash their own hands in innocence, by having done what they could, the Yearly Meeting took measures to prevent any of its members uniting their efforts with ^{these} ~~the~~ advising and remonstrating against joining societies, in connection with persons not of our denomination! And further, it closed the doors of its meetings ~~doors~~ against those who felt themselves called to plead the cause of the dumb. These acts were hailed with joy by the enslaver, and by those who were openly apologizing for his sin. Well might these leaders in our country, which are professedly the churches of Christ (but which are giving their sanction to every sin under the name of slavery, feel strengthened in their deep iniquities when referring to the New-England Yearly Meeting as having come on to their side.

Again, when a little band was raised up in our country, to give their testimony against violence in all its various forms, however modified, whether administered by the soldier on the battle-field, or by the officers of a government, whose last resort is the sword, and which claims the right of taking life at its pleasure; the New-England Yearly Meeting, professing the principles of the Prince of peace, distinctly condemning personal self-defence by violence, and denying the right to take the life of man under any circumstances, was the first ecclesiastical body in the land to send out to the world a protest against those heinous doctrines! This act, also, gave comfort to a blood-stained world.

In consequence of their departure of the Society from the high ground of truth, or if it should be claimed that the Society never occupied this ground, then I would say, in consequence of its refusal to occupy it, and for the course it has pursued in hardening itself against the kind admonitions and faithful rebukes of some of its members, who have ~~been~~ ^{been} misrepresented, and, in some instances, informally disowned for their refusal to obey man, rather than God, I say that, for these acts and others which might be mentioned, I cannot acknowledge it a Christian body, or even as being actuated by those feelings of humanity which have, in some instances, led even the Infidel to stretch out a helping hand to our neighbor who had fallen among thieves. I therefore take this means of informing you, that I heartily disown all connection or fellowship with the Society of Friends, feeling it a duty to "come out and be separate, and have no communion with the unfruitful works of darkness." (But I would assure you that, in performing this act of obedience to the Divine will, I do it with the most tender regard to all in the Society. My heart is overflowing with love to the whole family of man, and it is my constant desire and prayer to Him, in whose hands are all hearts, that he would turn and overturn, till truth shall cover the earth as the waters do the grass.)

I feel much gratitude in being able to say, that there are some in the Society, with whom I have taken sweet counsel, and to whom I still look up as fathers and mothers in Israel. That these and others may follow the guidings of the unerring finger of the Father light in the way of everlasting life, is the earnest longing of my spirit.

Your friend and sister,

Abby Kelly.

Bps. Garrison - One word about Rhode Island affairs - I have been in the state about two and a half weeks and thus far have been very agreeably disappointed - What few abolitionists there are in the South part of the state where I have been for the most part are true as steel - The Ex. Com., from whom, on account of the transcendental spirit that has taken many of them, I expected nothing but discouragement readily conceded to a proposition to call help into the state and taking ~~advantage~~ ^{advantage} of the excitement in the effort to get a constitution shake the little place most thoroughly - They have written to J. C. Jackson and if he cannot come will try for some one else - They will also bring in W. Phillips if possible and others occasionally - You will of course do what you can to help on -

Wm Lloyd Garrison

Westerly R.I.
Oct 11. 1841

Wm Lloyd Garrison

25 Cornhill

Boston. Mass.

That word white, must, if possible be kept out of the Constitution - One of my objects, at present, is to raise money for this special purpose. I have obtained about \$150.00. although I have not selected the best field; perhaps, in the state. I hope W. Phillips, yourself and many others from your quarter will be at the ann. meeting, which will probably be large - They have been asleep so long there is a prospect of a general awakening - There was never more encouragement to go forward bravely than now -

Yours truly Abby Kelly -